

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 /102 W

----- 093400

R 110509Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1170

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JIDDA 3295

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, XF

SUBJ: SAUDI POLICY TOWARDS JERUSALEM

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A QUESTION AND ANSWER ON THE
SUBJECT OF SAUDI POLICY TOWARDS JERUSALEM FROM AN INTER-
VIEW WITH SAUDI MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL WHICH APPEARED IN AL-YAMAMAH MAGAZINE.
THE THURST OF SAUD'S REMARKS IS TO MAINTAIN THAT THERE HAS
BEEN NO CHANGE IN SAUDI POLICY WHILE EMPHASIZING THE RIGHTS
OF JEWS TO WORSHIP IN JERUSALEM:

"Q. SOME WESTERN NEWSPAPERS HAVE INTIMATED, FOLLOWING A
PREVIOUS STATEMENT MADE BY YOUR HIGHNESS TO THE EFFECT THAT
THE JEWS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WORSHIP IN JERUSALEM, THAT A
CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE TO THE KINGDOM'S STANCE WITH REGARD TO
THIS QUESTION. IS THERE ANY ACTUAL CHANGE? OR DOES THE STATE-
MENT YOUR OF YOUR HIGHNESS INDICATE THE CONTINUATION
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OF THE PREVIOUS POLICY?

"A. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE KINGDOM'S STANCE. JERUSALEM MUST RETURN TO ARAB SOVEREIGNTY, AND WILL REMAIN ARAB. FORCE CAN NEVER GIVE RISE TO A RIGHT OR RENDER SOMETHING LEGITIMATE. THIS IS WHAT THE UN RESOLUTIONS CALL FOR AND WHAT IS REAFFIRMED BY ITS CHARTER. BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, THIS MATTER IS A REAL GAUGE OF THE ABILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PRESERVE WORLD PEACE. THE RIGHT OF WORSHIP IN JERUSALEM IS SOMETHING GUARANTEED. ISLAM UPHOLDS THIS RIGHT. THE PROPHET, MAY THE PEACE AND BLESSING OF GOD BE UPON HIM, WAS SENT (BY GOD) TO REASSERT THIS. THE ATTITUDE OF THE CALIPH OMAR IBN AL KHATTAB, MAY THE BLESSINGS OF GOD BE UPON HIM, TOWARDS PRAYERS IN THE COURTYARD OF THE CHURCH OF JERUSALEM CONFIRMED THIS AS AN ISLAMIC RULE. ANY ISLAMIC RULE IS AUTOMATICALLY THE RULE OF THE KINGDOM'S POLICY. HIS MAJESTY THE LATE KING FAISAL HAD ALSO POINTED THIS OUT RECENTLY. THEREFORE THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE KINGDOM'S POLICY. THERE SHOULD BE NO CONFUSION. THE RETURN OF ARAB SOVEREIGNTY OVER JERUSALEM IS ONE THING AND THE FREEDOM OF WORSHIP IN JERUSALEM FOR ALL DIVINE RELIGIONS IS SOMETHING ELSE. THE RIGHT TO WORSHIP IN JERUSALEM HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO ANY CHANGE SINCE THE ISLAMIC CONQUEST UNTIL THE ZIONIST INVASIONS CAME IN 1948."

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